

Message Text

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12

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 ORM-02 SCA-01 VO-03 INSE-00

DHA-02 /028 W

----- 090892

P 071118Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2530

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 7853

FOR DHA/ORM AND FRANK SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS(SREF

SUBJ: ICR/BANGKOK STAFF REDUCTIONS

REF BANGKOK 8220

1. EMBASSY CHECKED AGAIN WITH ICRC/BANGKOK APR 7 TO DETERMINE IF MS. ROUGE HAD BEEN EXTENDED BY ICRCGENEVA. ACCORDING TO ICRC/BANGKOK, GENEVA HEADQUARTERS HAS DECIDED NOT TO EXTEND MS. ROUGE BEYOND APR 11. EMBASSY ALSO LEARNED THAT THE ICRL FIELD MAN IN NORTH THAILAND (BECKER) IS ALSO TO BE WITHDRAWN AT THE TIME END OF APRIL.

2. THE WITHDRAWALS OF THE TWO PERSONS NOTED ABOVE LEAVES THE ICRC WITH ONLY ONE FIELD MAN IN THAILAND. IN EMBASSY VIEW, THIS IS CLEARLY INADEQUATE FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND REFUGEE SUPPORT ROLES OF THE ICRC; INEXPLICABLY, ONE OF THE REASONS CITED FOR THE WITHDRAWALS OF THE ABOVE PERSONNEL WAS THE LACK OF FINANCES. EMBASSY ASSUMES THIS IS NOT THE CASE IN LIGHT OF RECENT USG CONTRIBUTION TO ICRC.

3. IN THE COMING WEEKS, THERE WILL BE MANY PRESSING FAMILY REUNION CASES WHICH WILL NEED TO BE WORKED OUT BEFORE INS COMPLETES ITS SCREENING IN THAILAND. TO
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PULL OUT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS WORK AT THIS

JUNCTURE IS A SERIOUS BLOW. IN FACT, THE ICRC HAS ONLY APPEARED TO BE GETTING DEEPLY INTO THIS FUNCTION IN THAILAND. WE ARE ALSO COUNTING ON ICRC ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING BASIC BIO DATA FROM REFUGEES IN DISTRESS EITHER IN THAI JAILS OR STILL CONFINED TO THE BOATS ON WHICH THEY ARRIVED. FYI: DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THESE TWO ICRC PERSONNEL ARE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN MONITORING THAI REF CROSS ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY ICRC CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ABROAD.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S URGENT INTERVENTION WITH ICRC TO PERMIT ROUGE AND BECKER TO REMAIN IN THAILAND UNTIL AT LEAST JULY 30.
WHITEHOUSE

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